

**Consumer Task Force**  
**October 24, 2006**  
**Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:** Tandy Bindinger, Jack Vint, Mike Daeschlein, Jacqui Day, Laura Hall, Sara Harrison, Mary Ablan, Tony Wong, Susan Steinke, Jane Church, Nora Barkey, Mike Head, RoAnne Chaney, Robin Palmer, Esther VanHammen, Carolyn Brown, Ruth Smith, Marva Ways, Marion Owen, Wendi Middleton, Kate White, Theresa Arini, Marty Raaymakers

**HANDOUTS:** Agenda, Minutes from September, Project Updates, 2007 Schedule of Meetings, Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Policy Status Report, September Michigan's LTC Connections (Single Point of Entry) Questions and Answers from the Informational Forum, Notice of November LTC Connections Informational Forum, Deficit Reduction Act-Money Follows the Person Grant Summary of Progress and Draft of CMS Templates, Summary of Consumer Consortium Report

1. **Minutes** - It was noted that the members who called into the meeting last month were inadvertently omitted as Attendees from the meeting minutes. There were no other corrections.
2. **Office of Long-Term Care Supports and Services Update** - The MIChoice waiver amendment for self-determination and person-centered planning has been approved by CMS. This will start with the four pilot sites and phase in the rest of the state. It will include written policy for waiver agents and consumers.

The Office is currently working on supporting the LTC Commission, Systems Transformation Grant Strategic Planning, MIChoice waiver renewal, LTC Connections (single points of entry) and continuing the existing grant activities.

The LTC Connections had a third informational forum Monday morning. This forum provided an update to various workgroup activities and the progress of UPCAP and Detroit LTC Connections. This forum also briefly discussed the need to provide training person-centered planning for the LTC Connections staff. All pilot sites are taking Information and Assistance calls, mainly using the existing 211 system. At this point, the options counselors are not available. Standards are still being developed for this staff position. A November forum is already planned (November 27, at the Michigan Library & Historical Center, 10am - noon) and one for January is in the planning stages. Future forums will depend on the attendance and interest.

3. **Brief Project Updates/Issues/Discussions** - There were no comments or discussions.
4. **DRA Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration Grant** - A summary of the progress of the grant submission was provided as well as a draft of two CMS templates. The grant proposal is a general concept of the project design. Details will be developed as the operational protocol, required by CMS, is developed. The operational protocols will take approximately nine months and will be created with extensive stakeholder input.

The Office hosted a Nursing Facility Transition Informational Forum on October 11 and two Round Tables on October 18 (one for providers and one for consumers/advocates). There

were well attended and provided much positive feedback. Such meetings will continue if this grant is awarded to Michigan.

A few requirements of the grant include:

- Awarded states participate in a national evaluation project. The Office will develop evaluation criteria for this national project as well as for Michigan.
- Transitioned consumers provide “informed consent” to participate in the project. This involved the consumer’s agreement to receive services and to participate in the national evaluation. The project profile does not include the MI or DD populations as there is already a process in place for these consumers through the mental health system.
- The state must include maintenance of effort in its proposal. The grant will provide service funding for a transitioned consumer for one year. After that first year, the state must assure continued funding; this is maintenance of effort.

The numbers of persons to be transitioned and the budget are in the very basic developmental stages. These figures are based on available historic transitioning data. It was noted that the trend for nursing facility transitions is decreasing mainly due to the large up-front unsupported costs to the MIChoice waiver agent. In addition, there is little consistent data regarding the MIChoice waiting list.

This grant will address the housing barrier by recommending that the MIChoice waiver be amended to include licensed settings. In addition, the grant will fund housing coordinators in the LTC Connections sites (single points of entry). These housing coordinators would be accessible to everyone, not just MIChoice enrollees. It was stressed that local communities need to address the lack of affordable, accessible housing by attending city planning meetings and talking with their local governments. Local housing coalitions should be part of the transition team. (In addition, HUD has issued a letter that offers priority placement for persons who transition from a nursing facility.) Tony noted that the DD Housing Council and the MI Disability Housing Workgroup have combined and would be a good contact.

This grant will not replace existing transition efforts. It is one additional methodology for transitioning people from nursing facilities. The use of Civil Monetary Penalty funds will still be available for nonMIChoice consumers. This grant is not for diversion. That should be the responsibility of the LTC Connections.

The savings will include the general fund savings from the enhanced federal match and the savings from Medicaid expenditures for individuals transitioned. This is a conservative proposal. We have to build the transition capacity. Since we are also spending state general funds, this proposal must be able to pass the Budget office. If not all funds are awarded from CMS, it may be possible for the state to request an amendment to the grant for additional funds.

There was a discussion regarding the mental health system’s OBRA screening that may put persons in an inappropriate setting to save that system’s funding. It was suggested that, if people have proof of this, that it be shared with the Office for follow-up.

The availability of caregivers has also been identified as barrier to transitions. In addition, having the MIChoice waiver as a separate budget line item limits the flexibility of funding flow.

Mary asked if the Office is requesting letters of support for this grant. It was noted that Michael Daeschlein would be sending a formal request for letters of support this week. The Office would need these letters by Monday, October 30. The LTC Commission has already agreed to sign a letter of support. It was also suggested that persons who have successfully transitioned send letters of support. (RoAnne indicated that she would like copies and that "Thank You" letters should go to the Governor's office thanking her for the policies that have allowed people to transition back into the community.)

5. **Consumer Consortium** - RoAnne provided a summary of this grant activity. Due to budgeting limitations, MDRC will be spending less time on continuing this effort. Consumer support is still available. MDRC is pursuing other sources of funding for staff time. Marva praised Carolyn Lejuste's efforts and was very appreciative of her efforts in the Detroit area.

6. **Other business**

- **LTC Conference** - Mike Head was to send an invitation to the planning group this week. The planning meetings are anticipated to begin in November. We are still looking for a suitable location that will accommodate more attendees.
- **Dementia Training** - the dementia training provided through a grant to the Michigan Quality Community Care Council will continue. The next trainings are scheduled for Detroit and Grand Rapids area. Ruth Smith offered the Alzheimer's Association as another source of training staff.
- **Chicago Conference** - Marva indicated that others on the Task Force had already shared their experiences, however she wanted to also note that she thought it was a good conference and a good opportunity to see what other states are doing. She is sharing this information with others in the Detroit area.

Next meetings: November 28, 10:00 – noon, Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards  
December 19, 10:00 – noon, Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards